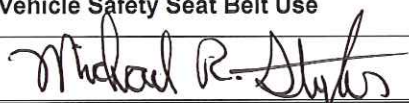
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POLICIES & PROCEDURES - <i>Administration</i>	Subject: Vehicle Safety Seat Belt Use	
Michael R. Styler, Executive Director	Signature: 	

I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy to assure passenger safety, thus minimizing the possibility of death or injury as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

II. POLICY

To assure that safety belts be worn at all times by drivers and passengers in all vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the department. This also applies to the use of privately owned or other vehicles while on-duty. Managers are responsible for ensuring that volunteers using department vehicles use a safety belt at all times.


III. REQUIREMENTS

It is required that safety belts be utilized by department personnel and other occupants at all times in vehicles (department owned or personal) to reduce the risk of death or injury (UCA 41-6a-1803 Driver and Passengers – Seat Belt or Child Restraint Device Required).

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. All occupants shall use the manufacturer-installed safety belts and child restraint devices (properly adjusted and securely fastened) when operating or riding in any vehicles while on-duty.
- B. Lap belts shall be properly secured in those vehicles equipped with automatic safety belt systems that require the lap portion of the belt be manually secured.
- C. The operator of the vehicle is responsible for ensuring compliance by all occupants of the vehicle. Approved child safety restraint devices shall be used for all children of age, size, or weight for which they are prescribed by law.
- D. No person shall operate a department vehicle in which any safety belt in the driver's seating position is inoperable. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the safety belt is inoperable.
- E. No person shall modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts except for vehicle maintenance and repair.
- F. Employees who discover an inoperable safety belt shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.
- G. Any person(s) under arrest and being transported in a department vehicle is required to be appropriately secured in the vehicle by a safety belt. Caution: Prisoners who are handcuffed in front may have the ability to release the handcuffs using the safety restraints latch plate.
- H. A peace officer operating in an undercover capacity may be exempt only if the officer believes the use of the safety belt will compromise his identity.



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- I. When arriving at an emergency call or making a vehicle traffic stop, a peace officer may remove the safety restraint just prior to stopping for quick exit. Should a vehicle pursuit begin, any safety belt removed shall be re-engaged prior to beginning the pursuit.

V. DRIVER AND/OR PASSENGER NEGLIGENCE

If negligence or non-compliance with the requirements of this policy occurs, appropriate corrective or disciplinary action shall be initiated as prescribed by department policies.

